

## QUICK WORK.

### Prompt Response of Government in Clearing Harbor.

#### Cutter Woodbury Here Breaking Up Ice Yesterday.

As exclusively announced in the TIMES on Tuesday, Mayor MacDonald and Collector William H. Jordan held a conference on Monday afternoon to see if some measures could not be taken to clear the harbor of ice which was causing so much inconvenience and expense to the vessel owners as well as the loss to causing fishermen who were eager and willing to get out and engage in fishing, but were prevented from doing so by the ice fields which spread over the harbor. It was decided to telegraph to Congressman Gardner the conditions existing here and solicit his good offices in procuring the services of a government vessel to assist in breaking out the ice.

Mayor MacDonald considered that a request of this kind had better come from the collector of the port, and Mr. Jordan, who was willing to do anything to carry out the good idea suggested, telegraphed to Congressman Gardner Tuesday noon, the gist of his message being as follows:

"Gloucester, Mass., Feb. 21, 1904.

Congressman Augustus P. Gardner, Washington, D. C.

Many vessels frozen in Gloucester harbor. It would be greatly appreciated if Secretary Shaw would order revenue cutter to perform the work of breaking up the ice, making it impossible for the vessels to get clear and possibly save a serious loss to many vessel owners and fishermen. If not too much trouble will you please urge the necessity for immediate action. I have not wired the department.

William H. Jordan, Collector."

At 4.30 o'clock yesterday afternoon the revenue cutter Woodbury was in this port, and broke up a large quantity of the ice, clearing a passage well up into the upper harbor and the broken ice rapidly drifted out to sea. The vessel owners and fishermen fully appreciate the efforts of Collector Jordan, Mayor MacDonald, Congressman Gardner and the treasury department at Washington for their efforts, and the people in general are grateful to Congressman Gardner for his prompt attention to the request of their representatives in this city.

The Woodbury was assisted in the work of breaking up the ice by the tugs Nellie and Eveleth, these crafts helping materially in the good work of clearing the harbor. Yesterday afternoon the work of breaking the ice was completed as far forth as possible, although some remained in Smith's cove and in the vicinity of Slade Gordon & Co.'s and Wm. F. Moore & Co.'s.

Today the harbor is practically clear, the ferry boat is running, there is clear water nearly everywhere and all the wharves can be reached. There is considerable slush between Rocky Neck and Fort wharf, but this does not hinder the arrival and departure of vessels.

One of the old wrecks on the western end of Five Pound island floated off with one of the big ice cakes when it was detached and left its icy home by dropping itself on the rocks near the Tarr & Wonson copper paint factory.

## HARBOR FREE.

### Vessels Imprisoned at Cape Porpoise Are Free.

The shift of wind yesterday, drove the ice out of the harbor at Cape Porpoise, Me., and freed the fleet of fishing vessels which have been ice bound for some days.

## ICE AT PROVINCETOWN.

### Stranded Sch. Ramona Unhurt on Flats in Harbor.

Of all the great ice floe that crowded the northeastern part of Cape Cod bay Tuesday, blocking Provincetown harbor entrance and extending out of sight to the south, only a fragment was visible from Town hill yesterday, at the northwest end of the harbor, where it had been driven by a change of wind during the night, carrying with it two big haddockers to the very edge of the flats and stranding two others far in shore. Sch. Ramona of this port and schs. Nellie Adams, Philip P. Manta and Frank Foster of Provincetown, each with with two anchors ahead, were dragged from their holding ground and forced steadily landward.

The Foster was pushed stern first alongside of Paine's wharf, where she was as neatly docked by the ice as her men could have done it. Sch. Ramona was carried far in across the flats and was aground at low tide, unhurt. Sch. Nellie Adams remained in the ice at noon, while sch. Manta was released by the tug Priscilla.

## AT ROSE BLANCH.

### Sch. Golden-Rod Has Been Four Days in Ice.

#### Harbor and Neighboring Coast Blocked by Big Floe.

Sch. Golden Rod of this port, bound home, light, from Port au Basque, N. F., is in the ice at Rose Blanche, N. F.

A telegram yesterday from Capt. Thomas Bohlin, states that the vessel was forced in there soon after leaving Port au Basque, and that the harbor and neighboring coast are blocked with ice. The Golden Rod had been in the ice there for four days, but Capt. Bohlin said that she would come out all right when the wind shifted.

## FROM FORTUNE BAY.

### Sch. Maggie and May Brings Partial Herring Fare.

Sch. Maggie and May arrived this morning from Fortune Bay, N. F., with 250 barrels of frozen herring. Herring have been very scarce there all winter.

## MAINE COAST HERRING.

### Sch. Margie Smith Here with Fine Cargo.

Sch. Margie Smith, Capt. Nathaniel Smith, arrived at this port yesterday from Eastport, Me., with a full fare of naturally frozen herring taken in that locality. The herring are of large size and fine quality.

## GOOD SEASON FOR WHALERS.

Ottawa, Feb. 24.—A report from the mouth of the Mackenzie river, where a mounted police station is located, states that the whalers had a fairly good season.

## DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

### To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Corona, Grand Bank, 18,000 lbs. halibut.

Sch. Arbutus, Grand Bank, 3000 lbs. halibut, 8000 lbs. flitch halibut.

Sch. Priscilla, Georges, via Portland, 11,000 lbs. cod.

Sch. Manomet, shore.

### Today's Fish Market.

Board of Trade prices for salt and fresh fish:

Salt fish, handline Georges cod, \$4.90 per cwt. for large, \$4.00 for medium; trawl Georges cod, \$4.25 for large, \$3.25 for medium; trawl Bank cod, \$4.00 for large, \$3.50 for medium; hake, \$1.25; pollock, \$1.25; haddock, \$1.75; large cusk, \$2.50.

Fresh fish, large cod, \$2.15; medium cod, \$1.75; all cod caught to the eastward of La-Have bank, \$2.15, medium \$1.75; cusk, \$1.50; Eastern haddock, \$1; Western haddock, \$1.15; hake, 90 cts.; Eastern hake, 90 cts.; Western hake, 95 cts.; pollock, 70c; snap per codfish, 60 cts.; snapper cusk, 40 cts.

Outside sales salt Georges cod, \$5.50 per cwt. for large and \$5.00 for mediums.

Outside sales fresh hake, \$1.00.

Bank halibut, 11 cts. per pound for white and 9 cts. for gray.

### Fishing Fleet Movements.

Schs. Mineola, Fred. Leland, Uncle Sam, Sylvia M. Numan and Bernie and Bessie were at Portland with small fares of fresh fish on Wednesday.

## WITH BROKEN BOOM.

### Sch. Paragon Put into Halifax Wednesday.

#### Capt. Harmon Reports Miles of Lolly Ice on Banks.

A special to the TIMES from its Halifax, N. S., correspondent states that sch. Paragon of this port put in at that port Wednesday night from the Banks to secure a new main-boom, having carried her's away.

Capt. Harmon reported very cold and rough weather and miles of lolly ice on the fishing ground. Sch. Paragon had been out five weeks and secured 4000 pounds of halibut. Capt. Harmon said that for a week at a time the weather would be so bad that it was impossible to put a dory over the side.

## Halibut at Portland.

Sch. Priscilla, which arrived here this morning, landed 4000 pounds of halibut at Portland on Wednesday. Sch. W. H. Moody of this port landed 8000 pounds of halibut there the same day.

## Good Stock.

Sch. Lucania, Capt. Martin L. Welch, stocked \$5050, as the result of her recent haddocking trip, the crew sharing \$55.50.



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## DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

### To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. William H. Moody, Georges, via Portland, 10,000 lbs. cod.

### Today's Fish Market.

Board of Trade prices for salt and fresh fish:

Salt fish, handline Georges cod, \$4.90 per cwt. for large, \$4.00 for medium; trawl Georges cod, \$4.25 for large, \$3.25 for medium; trawl Bank cod, \$4.00 for large, \$3.50 for medium; hake, \$1.25; pollock, \$1.25; haddock, \$1.75; large cusk, \$2.50.

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Outside sales fresh hake, \$1.00.

Bank halibut, 11 cts. per pound for white and 9 cts. for gray.

### Vessels Sailed.

Sch. Mary E. Silveira, shore.  
Sch. Ida S. Brooks, shore.  
Sch. Flora J. Sears, shore.  
Sch. Henrietta G. Martin, shore.  
Sch. Teresa and Alice, shore.  
Sch. Patriot, Georges.  
Sch. Mildred V. Robinson, haddocking.

### Boston.

No arrivals today.

### Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Ingomar, New York for this port, was at Vineyard Haven yesterday.

There is no doubt but that the past month will go down on record, in the minds of the fishermen at least, as one of the worst they ever spent on salt water. In all the months there has not been what the haddockers would call a good fish day, that is a day when from dawn to dark they could set and haul in comparative safety. Not one of these days have the hard working trawlers had, and what fish they have got they have fairly had to steal from the grasp of the bad weather, getting two or three hours out of a day when they could put out a little of their trawls.

The two weeks just passed have been particularly bad in this respect and many are the chances the fishermen have taken to bring in what fish they have. On this trip just finished a large number of the haddockers were on Georges and they had jogged about for three days without putting a dory over the side, so rough was the sea. In one of the vessels, one of the leaders of the fleet, the skipper and crew, all workers and steady men and anxious to make a dollar, chafed under the restraint, and finally, although it was, as the fishermen say, "an awful day to set them out," they put over their dories and set part of their trawls, while many of the other vessels were still jogging. In the leeward dory were two husky chaps and they had just finished breaking out their trawl anchor, previous to rowing back to the vessel with their catch, which had been a good one, when another of the big haddocking crafts came jogging by them and close to the dory. The skipper stood on the quarter, he looked up at his own riding sail and at the heavy sea, and then at the dory load of fish, shook his head and sang out, "Well, boys, if this is how you get 'em, I don't begrudge 'em to you."

And so it goes in the fishing business. The fishing is always dangerous, but in a winter like this it is doubly so, for men must work to make a dollar for themselves and families, and many of them will take desperate chances to get some fish, for they know a fare caught while some of the other vessels are not fishing means a good chance for a bare market and high prices, and they are anxious often to take the chance.

## ANOTHER STEAMER WRECK.

### May Be on the Northwest Bar of Sable Island.

A rumor which has gained currency at Halifax, is to the effect that a steamer is ashore on Sable Island, an officer of the steamer Damara stating that he saw a steamer with two masts and one funnel ashore off the northwest bar.

Capt. Harmon of fishing schooner Paragon of this port, which is at Halifax, states that he sighted Sable Island a few days ago, and saw the hull of the British steamship Crofton Hall, which stranded about ten years ago.

Capt. Harmon, when informed that one of the officers of the steamer Damara had reported seeing a wreck on the island, expressed the opinion that the officer was correct if he had seen two masts, as he reported.

The Gloucester captain says that only one mast of the Crofton Hall is now standing and that one has been the only mast standing above the wreck for a long time.

The government steamer Lady Laurier will go to Sable Island shortly, and the report will be investigated.

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## DAILY TIMES FISH BUREAU.

### To-day's Arrivals and Receipts.

Sch. Admiral Dewey, Fortune Bay, N. F., 450 bbls. frozen herring.

Sch. Ida S. Brooks, shore.  
Sch. Belbina P. Domingues, shore.  
Sch. Robin Hood, via Boston.  
Sch. Mary Edith, shore.  
Sch. James S. Steele, shore.  
Sch. George H. Luber, shore.

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Outside sales fresh hake, \$1.00.

Bank halibut, 11 cts. per pound for white and 9 cts. for gray.

### Boston.

Sch. Theresa and Alice, 6000 haddock, 500 cod, 500 hake.  
Sch. Gertrude, 15,000 haddock, 2000 cod.  
Sch. Rapidan, 2000 cod.  
Sch. Yankee, 7300 cod.  
Sch. Massasoit, 5000 cod.  
Sch. Mattie Brundage, 2500 haddock, 700 cod, 2000 hake, 500 pollock, 200 cusk.  
Sch. Valentinnia, 5600 cod.  
Sch. Olive Hutchins, 1200 haddock, 300 cod, 3500 hake.  
Sch. Emerald, 6000 cod.  
Haddock, \$3 to \$6.50; large cod, \$5 to \$7; market cod, \$4.50 to \$5.50.

### Fishing Fleet Movements.

Sch. Harry A. Nickerson was at Yarmouth, N. S., last Friday.  
Sch. Gossip is on Burnham's railways getting ready for a salt bank trip.

## THE STARFISH.

This Peculiar Creature Can Neither See, Hear Nor Smell.

Unlike man, the starfish which loses one of its "arms," or properly its rays, grows a new one to take its place. Under certain conditions it grows two to take the place of one. A starfish may lose all its rays without losing its life, and very often a cripple with but a single ray left is found by fishermen and collectors. When completely broken in two the starfish becomes two distinct fish, and the growing process continues. The brittle starfish, it is believed, in many instances breaks off its own rays at the approach of danger. For this reason it is difficult to obtain a perfect specimen.

A starfish can neither see nor hear. Neither has it the sense of smell. In spite of these seeming impediments, nevertheless, it seeks and devours its prey as neatly as an ordinary fish. The starfish lies upon its prey and folds its "arms," or rays, completely about it. Then it pushes its stomach out through its mouth and will wrap even a large oyster and shell within the folds of the stomach. The mouth of the starfish is in the center of its rays.

Some great ships are today employed almost wholly in seeking for starfish specimens in deep seas, and there are hundreds of men who spend a portion of their time in collecting starfish in the interests of science. Many of the specimens collected by ships are taken from depths of one and even two miles.

## Immense Herring Catch.

The returns for the season's herring catch at Bay of Islands show a condition of affairs this year that has been unsurpassed. The amount of money distributed in Bay of Islands, and in fact to hundreds of non-resident fishermen, is unprecedented. The majority of craft in quest of herring were American, 66 of whom entered and cleared at the Customs, while only 12 were British (Canadian) bottoms. These 78 vessels aggregate 7051 tons, carried 626 men and took 94,441 barrels of herring, comprising 65,359 salt bulk, 8987 pickled, 22,095 frozen, valued at \$157,850.50. The people of Bay of Islands thoroughly appreciate the benefits of this winter's fishery, and the profits derived can be fully seen in their prosperous condition today. It is hoped it will long continue.—St. John's, N. F., Herald.

### Herring Receipts.

Sch. Admiral Dewey, Capt. John Vautier, arrived yesterday from Fortune Bay, N. F., with 450 barrels of frozen herring.

Schs. Columbia, Lena and Maud, Veda M. McKown, Arbitrator and A. M. Nicholson yet remain to arrive from there, all of whom are understood to be on the way home.

The season at Fortune Bay has been practically a total failure.

Sch. Willie S. Swift is bound here from Harbor Breton, N. F., with a cargo of salt herring.

### Sold to New York.

The fare of frozen herring of sch. Maggie and May has been sold to New York parties.